



LETTER

Unethical Postgraduate Supervision

Hossein Yahaghi¹ · Shahryar Sorooshian² ·
Javad Yahaghi³

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Dear Editor,

Many years ago unprofessional supervisors were identified as one of the main reasons for the withdrawal of a student's study. Recently in some universities, unethical supervision has become an increasing concern of students and ethic committees. The last few years has witnessed an increase in the withdrawal rate of students who quit their study because of the poor guidance of their supervisors. The unethical supervisors try to delay the graduation of students, who are hard-working and have good scientific writing ability. They request more and more publications from their students before they permit the final submission of their thesis. This may be because of the need for multiple publications in the modern academic environment (Sorooshian 2016a). The supervisor can strengthen his/her profile because of these publications. This becomes more noticeable when supervisors put their name as the first author of the articles. Sometimes supervisors add their friends and colleagues to the list of authors. Unethical supervisors can be a silent part of the scholarly black market which was recently introduced (Sorooshian 2016a, b, c).

Even if the student handles the delay in graduation and the extra pressure for publication there is an energy which is wasted in the pursuit of the supervisors' requests. This wasted energy and time affects the student's life, since it requires additional tuition fees for the late graduation. Even if the student doesn't follow his/her unethical supervisor's rules and submits his/her thesis, he/she may lose the

✉ Shahryar Sorooshian
sorooshian@gmail.com

¹ Faculty of Humanities, Sari Branch, Islamic Azad University, Sari, Mazandaran, Iran

² Faculty of Industrial Management, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, Gambang Kuantan, Malaysia

³ Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University Tenaga Nasional, Selangor, Malaysia

supervisors' support which affects the viva result. As a result of unethical supervision two choices are available for student; either withdrawal from the study or persevere under duress. Both cases affect the student's motivation. This phenomenon may change the student's planned life.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of interest None.

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